Appl. No. 10/769,130

Amdt. dated October 6, 2005

Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 22 were pending in the Application at the time of examination. The Examiner rejected Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 9, 12 to 14, and 18 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by the Miyatake reference (US 5,255,235). The Examiner objected to Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 9, 12 to 14, and 18 to 20, without prejudice. Applicant has amended Claims 4, 10, 15, and 21 to place these claims in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22 remain in the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 TO 3, 7 TO 9, 12 TO 14, AND 18 TO 20

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 9, 12 to 14, and 18 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by the Miyatake reference (US 5,255,235).

Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 9, 12 to 14, and 18 to 20, without prejudice. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 9, 12 to 14, and 18 to 20 is now moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner objected to Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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As shown above, Applicant has amended Claims 4, 10, 15 and 21 to place these claims in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of the amendments to Claims 4, 10, 15 and 21, and the Examiner's previous statements, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 4, 10, 15 and 21, as amended.

In addition: Claims 5 and 6 depend on Claim 4, as amended; Claim 11 depends on Claim 10, as amended; Claims 16 and 17 depend on Claim 15, as amended; and Claim 22 depends on Claim 21, as amended. Consequently, in light of the amendments to Claims 4, 10, 15 and 21, and the Examiner's previous statements, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 5, 6, 11, 16, 17 and 22 as well.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant.

Date of Signature

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 6, 2005.

October 6, 2005

Attorney for Applicant(

Respectfully submitted,

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